

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2, 16-29, 39 and 49-50 — 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 16-29, 39 and 49-50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Imura Shigeru *et al.* (Japanese Publication No. 08-149035 hereinafter, “Imura”) in view of Ono *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 7,050,779 hereinafter, “Ono”).

Applicant has canceled claims 1-2, 16-29, 39 and 49-50 without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 3, 6-8, 10, 13-15, 30-38 and 40-48 — 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3, 6-8, 10, 13-15, 30-38 and 40-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imura in view of Ono, and further in view of Phillips *et al.* (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0118081 hereinafter, “Philips”).

Applicant has canceled claims 3, 6-8, 10, 13-15, 30-38 and 40-48 without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 in independent form incorporating all the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims as suggested by the Examiner.

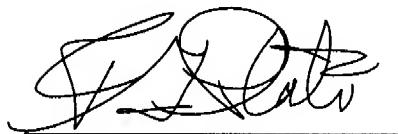
Applicant respectfully submits that rewritten claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are patentable over the prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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